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13 JUL 1978

AM-EMBASSY 7-12

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SOVIETS HAVE PRIVATELY THREATENED TO PUBLISH ALLEGED PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF U.S. WIRETAPS PLANTED IN THEIR WASHINGTON EMBASSY AND SAN FRANCISCO CONSULATE, ABC-TV NEWS REPORTED WEDNESDAY.

ABC CORRESPONDENT JOHN SCALI SAID THE RUSSIANS LAST MONTH GAVE THE STATE DEPARTMENT COPIES OF "PHOTOGRAPHS OF WIRETAPS SUPPOSEDLY FOUND" IN THE TWO DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, AND "THREATENED TO DISCLOSE (THE EVIDENCE) PUBLICLY."

SCALI GAVE NO SOURCE FOR HIS REPORT AND DID NOT INDICATE WHAT MIGHT LEAD THE SOVIETS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DISCLOSURE THREAT.

SUCH A MOVE, HOWEVER, WOULD REVERSE THE U.S. AND SOVIET ROLES IN A DISPUTE THAT OCCURED LAST MAY AND LED OFF THE INTENSIFYING ROUND OF MUTUAL SPY CHARGES AND NAME-CALLING NOW STRAINING U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

ON MAY 31, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW SENT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT A PROTEST NOTE SAYING AMERICAN TECHNICIANS HAD DISCOVERED ELECTRONIC SPY GEAR HIDDEN IN AN EMBASSY CHIMNEY.

THE U.S. NOTE DEPLORED THIS "CRUDE INTRUSION INTO ITS CHANCERY" AND WARNED THAT FURTHER SUCH EFFORTS COULD JEOPARDIZE U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

THE SOVIETS RESPONDED IN THEIR OFFICIAL PRESS BY DESCRIBING THE U.S. EMBASSY AS A BASE FOR ANTI-SOVIET SPYING.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT THEN TOOK THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF PUBLISHING A SUMMARY OF ITS ORIGINAL PROTEST, THUS DEPARTING FROM THE RULE THAT SPY CHARGES AND THE DIPLOMATIC NOTES THAT CONTAIN THEM ARE EXCHANGED QUIETLY, OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW.

THE UNITED STATES SUBSEQUENTLY ANNOUNCED IT HAD ARRESTED TWO RUSSIAN U.N. EMPLOYEES ON SPY CHARGES. THE SOVIETS HAVE CHARGED A MOSCOW-BASED U.S. BUSINESSMAN WITH CURRENCY VIOLATIONS AND ACCUSED TWO AMERICAN REPORTERS OF LIBELING SOVIET INSTITUTIONS.

POSSIBLE TRIALS ARE PENDING IN ALL THOSE CASES.

SCALI SAID THE SOVIETS ALSO HAVE GIVEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF TWO ALLEGED U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS "WITH THE WARNING THESE WOULD BE EXPOSED AS HAVING BEEN CAUGHT RED-HANDED IN THE SOVIET UNION."

HE SAID ONE OF THESE ALLEGED AGENTS WAS MARTHA PETERSON, A FORMER U.S. MOSCOW EMBASSY OFFICER WHOM THE SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE ACCUSED OF SPYING.

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DISSENTS - SPYING

NEW YORK, JULY 12, REUTER - THE SOVIET UNION HAS THREATENED PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EVIDENCE IT SAYS IT HAS THAT AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WIRETAPPED RUSSIAN MISSIONS IN THE U.S., AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY (ABC) NEWS REPORTED TODAY.

ABC, IN ITS EVENING NEWS REPORT, SAID PHOTOGRAPHS OF WIRETAPS ALLEGEDLY FOUND IN THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE SOVIET CONSULATE IN SAN FRANCISCO WERE GIVEN TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BY SOVIET OFFICIALS LAST MONTH.

ABC ALSO SAID THAT PHOTOGRAPHS OF TWO ALLEGED AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENTS WERE HANDED OVER TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WITH THE WARNING THAT THEY WOULD BE EXPOSED AS BEING CAUGHT RED-HANDED IN THE SOVIET UNION.

ONE, MARTHA PETERSON, WAS IDENTIFIED BY MOSCOW ON JUNE 13 AS BEING CAUGHT SPYING A YEAR EARLIER.

THE OTHER AMERICAN, ATTACHED TO THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, AND HIS WIFE WERE SEIZED BY SOVIET POLICE LAST SEPTEMBER, ABC REPORTED.

IDENTIFIED AS VINCENT CROCKETT, AND SAID TO SERVE AS AN ARCHIVIST, HE WAS REPORTEDLY PULLED FROM HIS CAR AND BEATEN AFTER HE WAS CAUGHT ALLEGEDLY CONTACTING A SOVIET COLLABORATOR. HE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE MOSCOW.

REUTER 1936